

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. An air return bulkhead for attachment to a wall having a refrigerator mounted thereon, the refrigerator having a generally horizontally oriented lateral width, the air return bulkhead comprising:

- a. a floating panel including opposing front and rear faces, the faces having an upper edge, an opposing lower edge, and opposing side edges between which the width of the floating panel is defined,
- b. an upper support panel integrally connected to the floating panel at its upper edge,

wherein the upper support panel extends continuously across the width of the floating panel and descends rearwardly from the rear face of the floating panel,

- c. two side support panels, each side support panel being connected to a respective one of the side edges of the floating panel and descending rearwardly from the rear face of the floating panel,

wherein the upper support panel and side support panels may be situated adjacent the trailer wall with the floating panel spaced from the trailer wall, thereby defining a plenum chamber between the floating panel, the trailer wall, the upper support panel, and the side support panels,

and wherein one or more openings are defined in the air return bulkhead beneath the lower edge of the floating panel, the openings allowing passage of air to the plenum chamber,

whereby at least a portion of the upper support panel may be cut away to define a space wherein the lateral width of the refrigerator may be fit when the bulkhead is situated against the trailer wall, the refrigerator thereby resting at least partially within the plenum chamber.

2. The air return bulkhead of claim 1 wherein the upper support panel has a width of at least 66 inches.
3. The air return bulkhead of claim 1 wherein the upper support panel includes laterally spaced ridges rising therefrom.
4. The air return bulkhead of claim 1 wherein the upper support panel includes laterally spaced valleys depressed therein.
5. The air return bulkhead of claim 1 wherein the front face of the floating panel includes a laterally-extending ridge rising therefrom.
6. The air return bulkhead of claim 1 further comprising two or more support columns resting below the lower edge of the floating panel,
wherein each support column includes a column floor extending downwardly from the lower edge of the floating panel, and opposing column walls descending rearwardly from the column floor.
7. The air return bulkhead of claim 6 wherein the one or more openings includes an aperture defined within one of the support columns.
8. The air return bulkhead of claim 6 further comprising one or more lower support panels, each of the lower support panels descending rearwardly from the lower edge of the floating panel between two of the support columns.
9. The air return bulkhead of claim 8 wherein the one or more openings includes an aperture defined within one of the lower support panels.

10. The air return bulkhead of claim 1 further comprising one or more depressions recessed into the front face of the floating panel between the upper and lower edges of the floating panel.
11. The air return bulkhead of claim 10 wherein at least one of the depressions is spaced from the upper, lower, and side edges of the floating panel.
12. The air return bulkhead of claim 10 further comprising two or more support columns resting below the lower edge of the floating panel,
wherein each support column includes opposing column walls descending rearwardly with respect to the rear face of the floating panel, and a column floor situated between the column walls and extending downwardly with respect to the lower edge of the floating panel.
13. The air return bulkhead of claim 12 wherein at least one of the depressions is recessed into the front face of the floating panel directly above one of the support columns.
14. The air return bulkhead of claim 12 wherein at least one of the depressions defines a support flute which includes elongated opposing flute walls extending between opposing flute ends.
15. The air return bulkhead of claim 14 wherein at least one of the flute ends is recessed into the front face of the floating panel directly above one of the support columns.

16. An air return bulkhead comprising:
- a. a floating panel including opposing front and rear faces, an upper edge, an opposing lower edge, and opposing side edges,
 - b. an upper support panel descending rearwardly from the rear face of the floating panel at its upper edge,
 - c. two side support panels, each side support panel descending rearwardly from the rear face of the floating panel at one of its side edges,
 - d. one or more depressions recessed into the front face of the floating panel between the upper and lower edges of the floating panel,
 - e. two or more support columns, wherein each of the support columns includes opposing column walls extending downwardly with respect to the lower edge of the floating panel and descending rearwardly with respect to the rear face of the floating panel.
17. The air return bulkhead of claim 16 wherein the upper support panel is integrally formed with the floating panel and extends continuously across the width of the floating panel.
18. The air return bulkhead of claim 16 wherein the upper support panel includes spaced ridges defined thereon.
19. The air return bulkhead of claim 16 wherein the upper support panel includes spaced valleys defined therein.
20. The air return bulkhead of claim 16 wherein at least one of the depressions is spaced from the upper, lower, and side edges of the floating panel.

21. The air return bulkhead of claim 16 wherein one or more support columns has an aperture defined therein, wherein each support column having the defined aperture includes a passage defined between its column walls, with the aperture opening onto the passage.
22. The air return bulkhead of claim 16 further comprising one or more lower support panels descending rearwardly from the lower edge of the floating panel between two of the support columns.
23. The air return bulkhead of claim 22 wherein at least one of the lower support panels has an aperture defined therein.
24. The air return bulkhead of claim 16 wherein at least one of the depressions is recessed into the front face of the floating panel directly above one of the support columns.
25. The air return bulkhead of claim 24 wherein at least one of the depressions defines a support flute, each support flute including elongated opposing flute walls extending between opposing flute ends.
26. The air return bulkhead of claim 25 wherein at least one of the flute ends is recessed into the front face of the floating panel directly above one of the support columns.

27. An air return bulkhead for attachment to a wall having a refrigerator mounted thereon, the refrigerator having a generally horizontally oriented lateral width, the air return bulkhead comprising:

- a. a floating panel including opposing front and rear faces, an upper edge, an opposing lower edge, and opposing side edges between which the width of the floating panel is defined,
- b. an upper support panel descending rearwardly from the upper edge of the floating panel,
- c. two side support panels, each side support panel descending rearwardly from a respective one of the side edges of the floating panel,
- d. one or more depressions recessed into the front face of the floating panel between the upper and lower edges of the floating panel,

wherein the upper support panel and side support panels may be situated adjacent the trailer wall with the floating panel spaced from the trailer wall, thereby defining a plenum chamber between the floating panel, the trailer wall, the upper support panel, and the side support panels,

and wherein one or more openings onto the pleunum chamber are defined in the air return bulkhead beneath its lower edge,

whereby at least a portion of the upper support panel may be cut away to define a space wherein the lateral width of the refrigerator may be fit when the bulkhead is situated against the trailer wall, the refrigerator thereby resting at least partially within the plenum chamber.

28. The air return bulkhead of claim 27 wherein the upper support panel is integrally formed with the upper support panel and extends continuously across the width of the floating panel.

29. The air return bulkhead of claim 27 wherein the upper support panel includes spaced ridges defined thereon.

30. The air return bulkhead of claim 27 wherein the upper support panel includes spaced valleys defined thereon.
31. The air return bulkhead of claim 27 wherein at least one of the depressions is spaced from the upper, lower, and side edges of the floating panel.
32. The air return bulkhead of claim 27 further comprising two or more support columns resting below the lower edge of the floating panel,
wherein each support column includes a column floor extending downwardly from the lower edge of the floating panel, and opposing column walls descending rearwardly from the column floor.
33. The air return bulkhead of claim 32 wherein the one or more openings includes an aperture defined in one of the support columns.
34. The air return bulkhead of claim 32 further comprising a lower support panel descending rearwardly from the lower edge of the floating panel between two of the support columns.
35. The air return bulkhead of claim 34 wherein the one or more openings includes an aperture defined within one of the lower support panels.
36. The air return bulkhead of claim 32 wherein at least one of the depressions is recessed into the front face of the floating panel directly above one of the support columns.
37. The air return bulkhead of claim 32 wherein at least one of the depressions defines a support flute, the support flute including elongated opposing flute walls extending between opposing flute ends.

38. The air return bulkhead of claim 37 wherein at least one of the flute ends is recessed into the front face of the floating panel directly above one of the support columns.